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1970/06/03

Department of State TELEGRAM

TOP SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 983
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T O P S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 1106

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RECVD: 03 JUN 70
3:38AM

NOD IS KHMER

DEPT PASS SEOUL IF DESIRED

SUBJECT: LON NOL REQUEST FOR ROK DIVISION

1. AT MORNING JUNE 3 MEETING WITH GENERAL POK SAM AN, CHIEF JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER, DATT WAS PASSED MESSAGE FROM GENERAL LON NOL AS TO HOW HE COULD OBTAIN SERVICES OF FIRST KOREAN DIVISION WHICH PRESENTLY STATIONED SOUTH VIETNAM.

2. SINCE THIS RAISES MANY QUESTIONS THIS EMBASSY UNABLE ANSWER, AFTER DISCUSSION WITHIN EMBASSY DATT REPLIED TO GENERAL POK SAM AN THAT QUESTION BEING REFERRED TO HIGHER AUTHORITY FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION.

3. IN VIEW KNOWN DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED SVN THROUGH USE ROK TROOPS, WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER TRANSFER OF THIS DIVISION TO CAMBODIA WOULD BE IN BEST INTEREST EITHER KOREA OR CAMBODIA, OR WHETHER THIS SHOULD BE LEFT TO CAMBODIAN AND KOREAN AUTHORITIES TO WORK OUT AGREEMENT.

4. REAL PROBLEMS, WE ASSUME, WOULD ARISE IN QUESTION OF SUPPORT.

5. DATT UNDERSTANDS THAT GOC WOULD WISH USE DIVISION IN MR 5 (RATTANAKIRI PROVINCE) SINCE FRIENDLY POPULATION HAS BEEN REMOVED AND APPARENTLY ONLY ENENY REMAINS OUTSIDE OF TWO POSTS HELD BY FANK.

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